

Q: Does the district need to obtain approval of its Alliance District Plan from the local board of education before submitting the Plan to the CSDE?

A: Local board approval is not required at the time of submission. However, the final, CSDE-approved versions of Alliance District Plans require local board of education approval.

Q: In the review guide, how will reviewers indicate that a particular requirement has only been partially met?

A: The Alliance District applications will be reviewed through an iterative process. If a requirement has not been met or has only been partially met, reviewers will indicate this by checking the “N” column. As needed, the reviewers will clarify which element(s) of the requirement was not met and will provide the districts with guidance for improvement.

Q: Does the district need to indicate whether each initiative will use conditional Alliance District funding in the Key District Initiatives section of the application?

A: No, the district does not need to explain whether it plans to use Alliance District funding for the initiative in the Key District Initiatives section. This information should be provided in the budget section of the application.

Q: Page 4 of the Review Guide suggests that districts are asked to provide measurable performance objectives and list short-term metrics that are broken down for each key initiative. However, the application does not seem to require such detailed information. Are districts required to provide this information?

A: No, it is sufficient for districts to provide overall performance targets and metrics. These need not be broken down for each key initiative.

Q: In the Tiered Approach to School Improvement section, how should a district explain its overall strategy for each tier of schools?

A: The district should explain its approach to supporting schools in each of the seven domains listed.

Q: Page 6 of the review guide seems to require districts to name an assessment tool and recommend specific interventions for Phase II schools. Are districts required to provide such specific information for Phase II schools?

A: No. Districts should use the 2012-13 school year to plan for implementation of initiatives in 2013-14 and are only required to outline the process through which they will develop a plan over the next year. The district must either name an assessment tool or describe the process it will use to develop or adopt an assessment tool over the course of the year. The district is also not required to recommend specific interventions. Instead, the district must describe the criteria it will use to select appropriate interventions.

Q: If a district needs to submit an operating budget for the 2012-2013 school year(as indicated on page 20 of the application), does it need to be a complete operating budget?

A: No, the district should submit a summary operating budget. The district must also provide a one page summary justifying the need for each expenditure that uses Alliance District funds but does not go towards new reforms or the expansion of existing reforms.

Q: Page 15 of the application states: "Districts with Focus and/or other Category Four or Five schools, please disregard this cell. Instead, fill out Phase I and II specific forms below." What does this mean?

A: If the CSDE identified any schools in the district as low performing (Review, Focus, and/or Turnaround), then the district does not need to describe its approach to supporting schools in the "Schools that require significant support and oversight" cell. Instead, the district will provide information about interventions in these schools in the sections that follow (B1 and B2) on pages 16-17.